



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012
(213) 974-1101
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

December 20, 2012

To: Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES' ROLE IN THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE FIRST 5 LA COMMISSION

On January 17, 2012, by motion of Supervisor Yaroslavsky, with an amendment by Supervisor Antonovich, the Board of Supervisors instructed the Chief Executive Officer to conduct an evaluation of the Department of Children and Family Services' (DCFS) role in the Governing Board of the First 5 LA (F5LA) Commission. DCFS was appointed to the Board of F5LA in March 2012.

To fortify the partnership between DCFS and F5LA, the Board added the Director of DCFS as a voting member to the governing board. The F5LA Strategic plan states the outcome goals for children are: born healthy, safe from abuse and neglect, ready for kindergarten and maintain a healthy weight. These outcome goals are appropriately aligned with DCFS overall mission to provide quality child welfare services and support so children grow up safe, healthy, educated, and with permanent families.

The Director of DCFS can provide invaluable expertise to the F5LA Board as he can:

- Provide subject matter expertise and first hand perspective from a large local Child Welfare Agency, serving 35,000 children and employing 7,300 staff on how to best serve these children and families;
- Share data and insights which support the continued focus on the safety and protection of young children from various forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation when approving new initiatives or funding services;

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- Provide critical information that supports the prioritization of investments for services to abused, neglected and exploited children; and
- Ensure coordination of service delivery with public and private providers using F5LA funding. For example within:
 - **Parenting Support and Child Safety** (a F5LA investment area) seeks to support families and reduce the risks associated with unsafe conditions for young children. These programs promote family strengthening, research-based, cost-effective strategies to enhance family relationships, support child development and reduce child abuse and neglect.
 - **Partnerships for Families (PFF)** addresses the F5LA goal of keeping children are safe from abuse and neglect. PFF is a program designed to prevent child abuse by addressing gaps in the current child welfare system. Each of Los Angeles County's Service Planning Areas are served by PFF which collaborates with other organizations to improve outcomes at the agency, family and community levels.
 - **Access to Substance Abuse Services (SA Access)** is a three year program targeting pregnant women and parents or caregivers of children five and under who are currently being served by DCFS. SA Access provides screenings for substance use disorders, intervention and referral and treatment services. These services are provided onsite at each DCFS regional office.

Furthermore, recently F5LA approved \$22,650,000 in grants and loans to provide permanent housing and supportive services to 790 families with young children that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness, and that have had involvement with the County's child welfare system. The funding of these programs offer an innovative opportunity in solving some of the many housing and health challenges for young children in Los Angeles County.

The initiatives highlighted above reflect the ongoing collaboration between DCFS and F5LA. These programs, coupled with the close alignment with the overall mission of the two entities can only further enhance the service coordination and quality service improvements.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Antonia Jimenez at (213) 974-7365, or via email at ajimenez@ceo.lacounty.gov.

WTF:AJ
DS:ljp

c: Department of Children and Family Services
First 5 LA Commission